

E1
Amended.
limiting the current intensity, the first power intensity from the power supply not being sufficient, even as other components fail, to actuate the firing element.

E2
Correct.
16. (Twice Amended) A priming device for a detonator, comprising:
an electrical power supply means for timing the action of a firing element of a primer; and
power generating means for generating, through a resistive circuit having resistors limiting current intensity, a current intensity sufficient to actuate the firing element upon expiration of a timing interval, the power generating means comprising a capacitor, switching means, and controlling means for controlling the switching means by allowing the capacitor to be charged for a charging time during the timing interval and then discharged, the discharge causing the firing element to act on the primer.

REMARKS

Claims 14-29 are pending. Claims 14 and 16 are amended. No new matter is submitted. Accordingly, entry of the Supplemental Amendment in addition to the Amendment After Final Rejection filed February 15, 2002 is respectfully requested.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

Applicants appreciate the indication of claims 20 and 21 as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the features of any base and intervening claims in item 9 of the Final Rejection mailed December 18, 2001 and as maintained by the non-rejection of claims 20 and 21 in the Advisory Action mailed March 11, 2002. Applicants maintain however that claims 20 and 21 depend from an allowable claim 16 for at least the reasons cited herein.

The Advisory Action mailed March 11, 2002 maintains a rejection of claims 14-19 and 22-29 based solely on Beukes et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,085,659) (hereafter "Beukes"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.